

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 48

For week ending 29 November 1949

Volume II

## The International Week

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Meanwhile, in a crowded week, the GA Political Committee decisively rejected the Soviet "peace resolution" and overwhelmingly adopted (53-5-1) the Anglo-American substitute aimed directly at the USSR. At the same time the GA plenary ratified committee decisions: (1) endorsing the Canadian-French resolution on atomic weapons; (2) rejecting Soviet proposals on the same subject; (3) asking for SC reconsideration of nine previously rejected membership applications; (4) requesting a World Court opinion clarifying the SC's role in admitting new UN members; (5) calling again for a global census of conventional armaments; and (6) establishing a UN Guard. On the international labor front, the Soviet-sponsored Peiping Trade Union Conference drew to a close as Western labor leaders met in London to inaugurate a 40-nation Free Labor International.

Soviet Peace Offensive in UN backfires. Overwhelming adoption of an Anglo-American peace resolution sharply pointed against the USSR together with the resounding rejection of a rival Soviet "peace" proposal mark an all time low in Soviet prestige at the UN. Although in previous General Assembly sessions, the USSR's similar barbed and slanted resolutions, all of their variations on the repetitious Soviet "peace" theme, had also been voted down, never before has the rejection been so decisive. It is clear that because of the glaring contrast between Soviet words and deeds, the USSR's peace offensive has gone well beyond the point of diminishing returns. The defeat of the Soviet proposals followed a debate notable for the volume and sharp pitch of the denunciations heaped upon Soviet conduct as undermining international cooperation and good will. Nevertheless, the Kremlin's persistence in repeatedly launching these propaganda resolutions in the face of obviously diminishing returns suggests that these tactics are designed to reach audiences far beyond the UN Assembly Chamber and are particularly for home consumption, to convince Soviet and satellite audiences that the USSR is the real champion of the UN. However, wherever a free press prevails, the net effect of the GA's action should be to lower the

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prestige of the Soviet bloc. Some recognition of this fact may be found in the recent Czech ban on a US information bulletin which carried the text of the US-UK peace resolution.

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WFTU drive for underdeveloped areas extended to Latin America. The recent agreement of Lombardo Toledano and three other Communist labor leaders to publish the WFTU Bulletin in Spanish and disseminate it throughout Latin America reflects the determination of the Soviet-led labor international to extend to this area its current drive for increased influence in the world's underdeveloped countries. The Bulletin, under the Spanish title MOVIMIENTO SINDICAL MUNDIAL will be financed by the WFTU and distributed free of charge by the Communist Labor Federation CTAL. Through this publication, as influential in the labor field as the Cominform Journal is in the political, the WFTU will seek support for its plans to bring workers from such strategic Western industries as petroleum and mining into its own "trade departments." It has already scheduled a January-February Mexico City conference to launch a WFTU Petroleum Workers International. Participation in these plans of key Communist labor leaders like Lombardo, Roberto Morena of Brazil, and Salvador Ocampo of Chile indicates that Latin America is currently second only to Southeast Asia and Africa as a target for WFTU penetration.

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Belgian Socialists threaten withdrawal from New International if Christian unions admitted. The Belgian Socialist Labor Federation (FCTB), although resigned to participation of the French Christian unions in the London Trade Union Conference, has threatened to walk out should the conference decide to let the French Catholics belong to both the New International and the Catholic Trade Union International. This threat reflects the bitter opposition of Belgian and Dutch Socialist labor leaders toward any move to recognize the competing Belgian and Dutch Catholic unions. However, despite their bitterness, the Belgian and Dutch Socialists will probably think twice before abandoning the new world labor organization which they have so consistently promoted. It is more likely that their current threat is a thinly concealed attempt to intimidate the Anglo-American labor leaders into acceptance of the Socialist position.

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GA and SC expected to endorse the Indonesian settlement. Anticipated Soviet attacks on the Netherlands-Indonesian settlement will do little harm in view of the preponderance of GA and SC support for the agreement. The GA will deal only briefly with Indonesia, and, despite some reluctance on the part of India and Australia, the item will probably be dropped from the agenda. SC consideration will be more detailed but the UN Commission for Indonesia will undoubtedly be directed to carry on, and to observe and report back on implementation of the agreement. Moreover, emphatic GA and SC approval will be given to the settlement in order to make it as difficult as possible for the USSR to veto Indonesia's application for UN membership early next year.

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Prospects for Five-Power Chinese Resolution. A minor addition to the US-sponsored Five-Power Chinese Resolution, enjoining respect for existing treaties relating to China, has overcome initial British misgivings as to the bearing of this proposal on Hongkong. With British and Commonwealth backing now assured, this mild and innocuous resolution should pass the GA, which will welcome an "out" in the ticklish Chinese question.

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Southwest Africa problem again. Although many GA Trusteeship Committee members have strained to preserve a conciliatory attitude toward the Union of South Africa in recent debates, the effect of Anglican clergyman Michael Scott's testimony in behalf of the Herero tribes has been to reverse the Committee's temper. The Committee has been debating proposals to refer to the International Court the question of Southwest Africa's international status and the Union's obligations thereto, particularly whether the former League Mandate comes under the UN trusteeship system. Reference to

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the Court is a foregone conclusion and has not been seriously opposed even by South Africa. With emotions aroused by Scott's testimony, however, the Committee passed a resolution regretting South Africa's "repudiation" of its previous assurances that it would submit reports on Southwest Africa and reiterating three earlier GA resolutions on the subject. Carried 31-11-4 (US opposing), the proposal will probably pass in the plenary, though possibly with some modification. South Africa bitterly resents UN criticism or interference in its affairs and will refuse to comply with the proposed resolution. Its belief in the legality of its case, however, and its desire not to offend world -- and US -- opinion at this time rule out the possibility of withdrawal from the UN.

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